

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /210 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1906

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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USMISSION GENEVA

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CONGEN HONG KONG 2043

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5489

DISTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM UN UR MX CH

SUBJ: SOVIET AND MEXICAN RESOLUTIONS ON

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB)

ARE APPROVED

1. THE SOVIET AND MEXICAN ROB RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECEMBER 7 AS EXPECTED. SOVS HERE APPEARED TO BE JUBILANT AT THEIR PROPAGANDA VICTORY; HOWEVER IT WAS TARNISHED BY MANY EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT IN EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE AND BY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF A COMPANION MEXICAN RESOLUTION WHICH SOVS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD PREFER HAD NEVER SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY AND WHICH NOT ONLY RECEIVED A BETTER VOTE THAN THEIR RES BUT MUCH MORE WIDE-
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SPREAD PRAISE IN STATEMENTS OF DELEGATIONS.

2. PURSUANT TO TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, WE WERE PREPARED TO ASK FOR A SEPARATE VOTE ON THE SECOND AND THIRD PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS OF THE MEXICAN RES AND TO ABSTAIN ON THEM WHILE VOTING FOR THE RES AS A WHOLE, CONTINGENT ON THE UK BEING ABLE TO TAKE THE SAME APPROACH. HOWEVER, WHEN THE VOTE CAME UP, THE BRITISH ABSTENTION INSTRUCTIONS HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED BY LONDON, AND WE THEREFORE ABSTAINED ALONG WITH THE ENTIRE EC-9. WE THINK OUR EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE MEXICAN RES EFFECTIVELY SET FORTH OUR MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT, AND THE POINT WAS NOT LOST THAT THE US WILL GLADLY COOPERATE WITH THE CONTEMPLATED EXPERTS STUDY PROVIDED IT EXAMINES CAREFULLY THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN A POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS AND MEMBER STATES ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE DATA NECESSARY TO MAKE THAT EXAMINATION MEANINGFUL. MEMBER OF MEXICAN DEL, FAR FROM EXPRESSING REGRET WE COULD NOT SUPPORT THEIR RES, SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF OUR "FANCY FOOTWORK" IN HANDLING THE MATTER THE WAY WE DID.

3. BEFORE THE VOTES WERE TAKEN, WE MADE A PROCEDURAL MOTION ALSO PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS TO ADJOURN THE DEBATE ON BOTH RESES UNTIL MONDAY, DEC 10 BECAUSE THE MEXICAN RES HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN CIRCULATED. IF SUCCESSFUL THIS WOULD HAVE BOUGHT US TIME TO CONTINUE EFFORT TO GET BRITISH INSTRUCTIONS CHANGED AND TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEANS WHO'S TO FOLLOW OUR PREFERRED COURSE. THE WHO'S WILLINGLY SUPPORTED THE DEFERRAL MOVE BUT OTHER SUPPORT WAS SCATTERED AND THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO ENLIST ENOUGH BACKERS. EVEN WITH MORE TIME WE MIGHT HAVE FAILED. THE MOTION WAS REJECTED 36-52-30. MEXICO WAS ONE OF THE 30 ABSTAINERS.

4. THE SOVIET RES CARRIED 83-2-38. IT WAS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT CHINA AND ALBANIA WOULD VOTE AGAINST IT AND THAT NO OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD REJECT IT OUTRIGHT DESPITE THE BADMOUTHING OF THE PROPOSAL CHINA AND BEEN DOING IN UN CORRIDORS AND IN PEKING MEDIA ALL FALL. CHINA AND ALBANIA WERE ALSO THE ONLY DISSENTERS ON THE MEXICAN RES, WHICH CARRIED 93-2-26. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CHINESE RELUCTANCE TO VOTE NO IN THIS CASE, AND THE CHINESE DELE-

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GATE ONLY BRIEFLY REFERRED TO THE MEXICAN RES IN HIS STATEMENT AS IN EFFECT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN ANOTHER GUISE.

5. MOST OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH LIKE THE US ABSTAINED ON BOTH RESES WERE FROM THE EUROPEAN GROUP OLUS ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, AND JAPAN, BUT SIX OTHERS ALSO FOLLOWED THIS COURSE: BRAZIL (DISAPPOINTED AT GETTING NOWHERE WITH ITS OWN DRAFT), BAHAMAS, CONGO, GUINEA, IVORY COAST

AND MAURITANIA. THE TACK FOLLOWED BY SOME OF THE NON-EC-9
WEO'S (NORWAY, SWEDEN, ICELAND, AUSTRIA, TURKEY, AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND) AND A SCATTERING OF OTHER COUNTRIES (TANZANIA,
ZAMBIA, MALAWI, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, GUYANA, AR-
GENTINA, PAKISTAN, THAILAND) WAS TO ABSTAIN ON THE SOV RES
AND VOTE FOR THE MEXICAN RES. THIS KIND OF DIFFERENTIATION
WAS DISTINCTLY UNHELPFUL TO THE SOVS, PARTICULARLY
WHEN SEVERAL OF THESE DELS EFFECTIVELY EXPLAINED THEIR
DISCRIMINATING APPROACH BEFORE THE VOTE.

6. GA PRESIDENT BENITES BEFORE ADJOURNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT
HE WOULD START CONSULTATIONS PROMPTLY ON THE COMPOSITION
OF THE COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR BY THE SOVIET RES. THIS
IS THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS PROVIDED
BY THE FIVE PERMANENT SC MEMBERS OUT OF THE SAVINGS
FROM THE MILITARY BUDGET CUTS THE RES RECOMMENDS THAT
THEY MAKE. THE GENERAL VIEW HERE EVEN AMONG MANY SUPPORTERS
OF THE SOVIET RES IS THAT AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY IS IN
PROSPECT.
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